

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the First Suffolk and Middlesex Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2002.

Residents of First Suffolk and Middlesex Senatorial District

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2002, there were 124,539 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 21.0% (26,183) of these admissions reside in the First Suffolk and Middlesex Senatorial District. 1.2% (321) of admissions from the First Suffolk and Middlesex Senatorial District were under 17 years of age. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.** In FY 2002, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from First Suffolk and Middlesex Senatorial District reported the following characteristics:

- 78% were male and 22% were female.
- 66% were between the ages of 30-49.
- 49% were white non-Latino, 30% were black non-Latino, 17% were Latino, and 4% were other racial categories.
- 72% were never married, 10% were married, and 18% reported not to be married now.
- 32% had less than high school education, 50% completed high school, and 17% had more than high school education.
- 14% were employed.
- 37% were homeless.
- 20% had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use that is the substance for which the client is seeking treatment. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the First Suffolk and Middlesex Senatorial District.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2002					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	40%	43%	4%	4%	5%
State	45%	37%	6%	4%	3%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug users (IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2 Annual Admissions by Substance Used: FY 1995 – FY 2002							
First Suffolk and Middlesex Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	24,859	19,112	6,974	10,143	7,313	8,147	5,057
FY '96	25,322	18,999	6,871	9,679	7,248	8,747	5,311
FY '97	26,419	20,302	6,788	8,921	7,187	8,778	5,686
FY '98	26,278	19,448	6,441	8,012	5,918	9,800	6,449
FY '99	25,247	18,709	5,866	7,762	5,506	9,881	6,364
FY '00	25,120	18,210	5,581	7,229	4,968	10,191	6,622
FY '01	26,131	18,224	5,865	7,053	4,540	11,562	6,930
FY '02	26,183	17,333	5,298	6,836	4,430	12,544	8,224

Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the First Suffolk and Middlesex Senatorial District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

